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DEPLITY

FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT 1 E. MARTIN ESTRADA United States Attorney MACK E. JENKINS 2 Assistant United States Attorney 3 Chief, Criminal Division CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA ANDREW BROWN (Cal. Bar No. 172009) 4 Assistant United States Attorney Major Frauds Section 5 1100 United States Courthouse 312 North Spring Street 6 Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 894-0102 7 Facsimile: (213) 894-6269 E-mail: andrew.brown@usdoj.gov 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 No. CR 2:24-cr-00534-GW 12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 13 Plaintiff, GOVERNMENT'S FILING OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLEA AGREEMENT FOR 14 DEFENDANT LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU V. 15 LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU, 16 Defendant. 17 The government, by and through its attorney of record, the 18 19 United States Attorney for the Central District of California, hereby 20 files the attached plea agreement between defendant LUCIAN ANDREI 21 BEJINARU and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern 22 District of Virginia (Norfolk Division) in the above-captioned case. 23 This plea agreement is being filed in this district for purposes of 24 permitting defendant to enter a quilty plea in this district pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 20. 25 26 27

Dated: August 21, 2024 Respectfully submitted, E. MARTIN ESTRADA United States Attorney MACK E. JENKINS Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Criminal Division /s/ ANDREW BROWN Assistant United States Attorney Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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1
    JESSICA D. ABER
    United States Attorney
 2
    BRIAN SAMUELS
    Assistant United States Attorney
 3
    Chief, Criminal Division
    ELIZABETH M. YUSI
 4
    Assistant United States Attorney
         101 W. Main Street
 5
         Suite 8000
         Norfolk, VA 23510
 6
         Telephone: 757-441-6331
         Facsimile: 757-441-6689
 7
         E-mail:
                     elizabeth.yusi@usdoj.gov
 8
    Attorneys for Plaintiff
    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 9
                          UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10
                     FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
11
                                Norfolk Division
12
    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                                         No. CR 2:19CR125
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              Plaintiff,
                                         PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
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                                         LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU
                   V.
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    LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU,
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              Defendant.
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              This constitutes the plea agreement between LUCIAN ANDREI
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BEJINARU ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA (NORFOLK DIVISION) ("the USAO") in the above-captioned case. All rights or powers of the USAO under this agreement may be exercised on behalf of the USAO by the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

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DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

2. Defendant agrees to:

- a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to count one of the indictment in <u>United States v. LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU</u>, CR No. 2:19CR125, which charges defendant with CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BANK FRAUD, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349.
 - b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f. Be truthful at all times with the United States
 Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.
- g. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of ability to pay such assessments.
 - h. Pay restitution in the amount of \$142,051.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- 3. The USAO agrees to:
 - a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.

- c. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment as against defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.
- d. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.
- e. Recommend that defendant be sentenced to a term of imprisonment no higher than the low end of the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, provided that the offense level used by the Court to determine that range is 18 or higher, and provided that the Court does not depart downward in offense level or criminal history category. For purposes of this agreement, the low end of the Sentencing Guidelines range is that defined by the Sentencing Table in U.S.S.G. Chapter 5, Part A, without regard to reductions in the term of imprisonment that may be permissible through the substitution of community confinement or home detention as a result of the offense level falling within Zone B or Zone C of the Sentencing Table.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count One, that is, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BANK FRAUD, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, the following must be true: First, during the time period alleged in

the Indictment there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit bank fraud; Second, defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of its object and intending to help accomplish it. The elements of bank fraud, in turn, are as follows: First, defendant knowingly carried out a scheme or plan to obtain money or property from a financial institution by making false statements or promises; Second, defendant knew that the statements or promises were false; Third, the statements or promises were material, that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a financial institution to part with money or property; Fourth, the defendant acted with the intent to defraud; and Fifth, the financial institution was federally insured.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

- 5. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, is: 30 years imprisonment; a 5-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$1,000,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; full restitution, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 6. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

- 7. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.

 Defendant understands that he is pleading guilty to a felony and that it is a federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
- 8. Defendant understands that defendant will be required to pay full restitution to the victims of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may order restitution to persons other than the victims of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading guilty. In particular, defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that victim as a result: (a) any relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty; and (b) any counts dismissed and charges not prosecuted pursuant to this agreement as well as all relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with those counts and charges. The parties currently believe that the

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applicable amount of restitution is at least \$142,051, but recognize and agree that this amount could increase based on facts that come to the attention of the parties prior to sentencing.

Defendant and his counsel have discussed the fact that, and defendant understands that, because defendant is not a United States citizen, the conviction in this case makes it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. Defendant may also be denied United States citizenship and admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that while there may be arguments that defendant can raise in immigration proceedings to avoid or delay removal, removal is presumptively mandatory and a virtual certainty in this case. Defendant further understands that removal and immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding and that no one, including his/her attorney or the Court, can predict to an absolute certainty the effect of his/her conviction on his/her immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he/she wants to plead quilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his/her plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

FACTUAL BASIS

10. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 11 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the

underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

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Beginning in or before June 2018, and continuing through at least July 2018, there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit bank fraud. Defendant became a member of that conspiracy knowing of its object and intending to help accomplish it. In furtherance of the conspiracy, defendant and Pavel Salkhorian and others installed skimming devices and micro cameras at ATMs, including those of ABNB Federal Credit Union, which is federally insured, in the Eastern District of Virginia to record the account information and PINs of customers. Defendant and his co-conspirators used that stolen account information to make counterfeit debit cards and withdraw at least \$142,051 from ABNB Federal Credit Union, and intended to steal more than \$150,000. The offense involved at least 220 victims who had their means of identification used unlawfully and without authority.

SENTENCING FACTORS

- 11. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of conviction.
- 12. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

Base Offense Level: 7 U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(1)

1	Loss Is More Than \$150,000:	+10	U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(F)
2	Offense involved 10 or more victims:	+2	U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 (b)(2)(A)(i)
3	VICCIMS.		(D) (Z) (A) (I)
4			H G G G E OD1 1
5	Offense involved (A) the possession or use of any (i)	+2	U.S.S.G. \S 2B1.1 (b) (11) (A), (B), and (C)
6	<pre>device-making equipment, or (ii) authentication feature;</pre>		
7	(B) the production or trafficking of any (i)		
8	unauthorized access device or counterfeit access device, or		
9	<pre>(ii) authentication feature; or (C)(i) the unauthorized</pre>		
10	transfer or use of any means of identification unlawfully		
11	to produce or obtain any other means of		
12	identification:		
13			
14	Acceptance of Responsibility:	-2	U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a)
15	Acceptance of Responsibility:	-1	U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)
16	Total Offense Level:	18	

The USAO will agree to a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility and, if applicable, move for an additional one-level downward adjustment under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)) only if the conditions set forth in paragraph 3.d are met and if defendant has not committed, and refrains from committing, acts constituting obstruction of justice within the meaning of U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1, as discussed below. Subject to paragraph 24 below, defendant and the USAO agree not to seek, argue, or suggest in any way, either orally or in writing, that any other specific offense characteristics, adjustments, or departures relating to the offense level be imposed. Defendant agrees, however, that if, after signing this agreement but prior to sentencing, defendant were to commit an act, or the USAO

were to discover a previously undiscovered act committed by defendant prior to signing this agreement, which act, in the judgment of the USAO, constituted obstruction of justice within the meaning of U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1, the USAO would be free to seek the enhancement set forth in that section and to argue that defendant is not entitled to a downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1.

- 13. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
- that, taking into account the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)-(7), the relevant Sentencing Guidelines effective in June 2024 represent a reasonable basis for the Court to determine defendant's sentence in this case, and that defendant should be sentenced in accordance with the Sentencing Guidelines. Therefore, subject to paragraph 24 below, with respect to count one, defendant and the USAO agree not to argue, either orally or in writing, that the Court (a) not follow the Sentencing Guidelines in imposing sentence; (b) impose a sentence not in accordance with the Sentencing Guidelines; or (c) impose a term of imprisonment outside the sentencing range for the Total Offense Level stipulated to in paragraph 11 above.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 15. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.

c. The right to be represented by counsel - and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel - and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel - at every other stage of the proceeding.

- d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.
- g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

16. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that

the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

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WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE AND WAIVER OF COLLATERAL ATTACK

- Defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following: (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) to the extent permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (e) the amount and terms of any restitution order, provided it requires payment of no more than \$1,000,000; (f) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (q) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).
- 18. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a postconviction collateral attack on the conviction or sentence, including
 any order of restitution, except a post-conviction collateral attack
 based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, a claim of
 newly discovered evidence, or an explicitly retroactive change in the
 applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of
 conviction.
- 19. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and

(b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of no less than the low end of the Guideline range, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence, with the exception that the USAO reserves the right to appeal the following: (a) the amount of restitution ordered if that amount is less than \$142,051.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

20. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement; and any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

21. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

22. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO

may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

- 23. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal

Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 24. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States
 Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this
 agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing
 recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing
 factors.
- Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 11 are consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

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26. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

27. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

28. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

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1	AGREED AND ACCEPTED	
2	UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	
3	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA (NORFOLK DIVISION)	e e
4	JESSICA D. ABER United States Attorney	
5	7/1/	
6		9/5/24
7	ELIZABETH M. YUSI Assistant United States Attorney	Date
8	Bohnor	8.22.29
9	LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU Defendant	Date
10	Keleen Tuor	8-22-24 Date
11	KELLEY MUNOZ Attorney for Defendant LUCIAN	Date
12	ANDREI BEJINARU	
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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charge and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason. Wander

LUCIAN/ANDREI BEJINARU Defendant

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am LUCIAN ANDREI BEJINARU's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines

provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.

KELLEY MUNOZ

Attorney for Defendant LUCIAN

ANDREI BEJINARU